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## Shackled Career Men

Richard Helms, new director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was out of line when he wrote for publication a letter applauding a newspaper editorial which had criticized Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. He was rebuked by many senators, and he later apologized.

The rules that require a certain amount of discretion on the part of agency heads in government are necessary, but this incident illustrates the fact that career men in government in a way become second-class citizens. They sacrifice the right to speak their minds freely.

How much this costs them becomes apparent when they must testify before congressional committees. Not only is a witness in such a case badly outnumbered, but he is faced by a battery of men who have few restrictions on what they can say. The badgering of government career men is not an infrequent exercise in such committee hearings.

The muffled and shackled career public servant must often reach the point of bursting in his frustration. Director Helms apparently did.

CPYRGHT And those senators who expressed that his indiscretion probably gave no thought to the manner in which they sometimes abuse their privilege of free speech.